

January 15, 2016

Dear Interested Parties:

Chief Water Judge McElyea sent an email (included below for your reference) to the members of the Water Adjudication Advisory Committee, interested members of the Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC), and other interested parties who had participated in WPIC's most recent meeting. Members and attendees discussed the benefits of potentially improving the water administration and distribution statutes. The Judge is extending his request by including you and offering you the opportunity to assist in providing suggestions.

Please read the Judge's email below. If you are interested in participating and providing suggestions, please comply with the deadlines identified below. You may send your suggestions to the Water Court for compilation by email at [watercourt@mt.gov](mailto:watercourt@mt.gov). Please reference "WPIC – Suggestions for Water Administration Statutes" in the subject line of your email.

Sincerely,

Swithin J. Shearer  
Judicial Assistant  
Montana Water Court

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Members of the Water Adjudication Advisory Committee, Mr. Davis, Judge Tucker, Mr. Mohr, Representative Brown, and Representative Williams:

The Water Policy Interim Committee (WPIC) discussed improvements to statutes governing administration and distribution of water at its last meeting. Several members of the Advisory Committee expressed concerns about the lack of clarity offered by these statutes.

Because of those concerns, WPIC has requested input from Tim Davis, the Water Court, Judge Loren Tucker, and members of the Advisory Committee.

For that reason, I am requesting your proposals for improvements to our water administration statutes.

Proposed changes should identify problems of concern and solutions to those problems.

I will compile your suggestions into a single document and redistribute that document to the recipients of this email. I will also set a meeting date for discussion of your suggestions after the compilation has been distributed. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss your suggested changes.

The objective of this process is to submit recommendations to WPIC at its next meeting.

The deadline for submission of suggestions is Friday, January 29. The target for a meeting to discuss your proposed suggestions will be the week of February 8.

Thank you in advance for your time and input.

Sincerely,

Russ McElyea  
Chief Water Judge